

INSIDE: 20 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!

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DOWNTOWN & PARK SLOPE EDITIONS

AWP/16 pages • Vol. 32, No. 30 • Friday, July 31, 2009 • FREE

HOLY SITT!

A new Zoney Island

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The City Council on Wednesday overrode Mayor Bloomberg's plan to redevelop Coney Island, a controversial plan that the mayor hopes will create a major tourist destination and livable neighborhood for permanent residents.

Just before the vote, Bloomberg and Joe Sitt, the major landowner in Coney Island, made a last-minute amendment to the mayor's plans, made a breakthrough in their sometimes-bitter negotiations over proposed changes to buildings, though a deal was not yet finalized.

The breakthrough involves Sitt selling a portion of his valuable territory to the city, yet his son for lucrative development of his own, the New York Times reported.

The Council's 44-2 vote would rezone Coney Island's derelict lots in hopes of creating a gleaming city-owned amusement park similar to those in other cities, like movie theaters, shopping or a water park for year-round visitors and 4,500 units of housing.

The plan will rezone 19 blocks of city land, which will be mainly limited solely for amusements, though only a few blocks actually have seasonal amusements on site while vast portions are empty or used for other purposes due to tax enforcement.

See CONEY on page 11



Sum-thin' else!

Dim sum is the new Sunday brunch, so flip to our GO Brooklyn section for the indispensable guide to that Indispensable Chinese treat that's not just for breakfast anymore.

REBEL YELL!

Ridge man proudly displays Dixie flag

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Will the south of Brooklyn rise again?

Judging by the looks of the Confederate flag hanging from a terrace on the northern side of the Bay Ridge Towers, it's certainly a possibility.

The incongruous banner — considered a symbol of hatred and oppression by some but merely a Southern tradition by others — waves from 16th floor of the 30-story co-op tower on the corner of Fourth Avenue and 65th Street, roughly 100 miles north of the old Mason-Dixon line.

But the man behind the controversial flag told The Brooklyn Paper that his civil war isn't against the Union Army — it's against liberals on Union Street.

"I do it because I'm against political correctness," said Tom Rehman, who gave the name to the flag, which he says give the name. "Mike told The Brooklyn Paper, 'People who are politically correct don't want that flag — it's my one-man protest.'

"The left has lost their southern diversity," he added. "I guess that's what I'm doing."

Mike insisted that when he hung the Confederate flag more than a year ago, he wasn't trying to promote racist views, but merely to support for Southern traditions. In a hub of Yankee liberalism (Brooklyn Ridge),

— anything having to do with the South or white people is smeared by sophisticated snobness in the neighborhood. Mike, who claims he is not racist and has friends of multiple races who are not offended by the banner. "They make Southerners into bumpkins — and that's not the case."

"Any other flag for any other nationality or country isn't a big deal, but this flag creates controversy," he continued, referring to his version of the Confederate banner, the third such flag has been hung (the past two succumbed to "dry rot").

For hate groups, including the statuary "Rebel Pride" and a small cartoon image depicting "Colonel Reb," a former University of Mississippi mississippian who was officially retired in 2003 amidst much controversy.

"I see other flags flying, so if they fly their flags,

See REBEL on page 11



WHISTLIN' DIXIE: A Confederate flag hangs from a window in the Bay Ridge Towers.



DUMPING GROUND: As usual, Prospect Park was a meadow of shame on Monday morning before park workers got a chance to clean.

No bash, plenty of trash

Prospect Park still a filth bowl — even without a party

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Even though barbecue areas of Prospect Park were again filthy on Monday morning.

But unlike last Sunday, when an illegal party the brought thousands of trash-creating people to the Long Meadow, it's not clear who was to blame.

The Parks Department did not respond to a query about whether there's enough capacity for all the trash that park users create.

Then again, park workers didn't

have time to clean up the mess.

When reached by The Brooklyn Paper, Smothers was surprised to learn that her farewell speech had been caught on tape and hit the airwaves before she could prepare an official announcement.

She said she made up her mind and I can't do it anymore. [But] I not

Meadows of



wanting in a meadow, but

barbecue refuse in the bush

and behind the Picnic House.

In one major development,

however, the Parks Department

did deploy a huge green ship-

ping container along the Center Drive near the Nethermead, and some park users took advantage, partly filling it by Sunday.

Despite its unsightliness, the dump was a welcome addition, said Bob Ippolito of the dog owners group, FIDO.

"We had four more [of them]

sprawled out over the park, we had calls from people who wanted to complain about how parties of picnickers treat Prospect Park," he said.

"We need a Dumpster at the Picnic House, as well," one person atop the Ninth Street path one next to the barbecue area by the Picnic House and the last in the northern part of the Long Meadow."



This eaten watermelon was dumped in a tree pit.

Brooklyn saying 'Adios' to LeNell

Bourbon babe heads to Mexico
By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

LeNell Smothers, the beloved owner of closed Red Hook liquor store, announced she's given up her search for another store in Brooklyn and will open a booze-filled bar in Mexico.

The 36-year-old Smothers was seemingly forced by a tippler at a whiskey tasting in a Manhattan bar last Tuesday night and posted on Spirited Cocktails, the sensible Web site for all manner of libations.

"I've been looking for space two-plus years and have had a real soul search," a choked-up Smothers says on the videotape. "I just decided this week that I'm giving up the search. I'm tired and I can't do it anymore. [But] I not

leaving the industry."

But she's leaving the country.

"It's time to move on — I'm moving to Mexico," Smothers told a room full of friends. "I'm hoping to open up a cocktail bed-and-breakfast down there." (Her lawyer says she's already calling it a "Tijuana B and B".)

Smothers was the owner of an anonymous liquor store on Van Brunt Street that closed in February after a protracted dispute with the landlord.

When reached by The Brooklyn Paper, Smothers was surprised to learn that her farewell speech had been caught on tape and hit the airwaves before she could prepare an official announcement.

She said she made up her mind and I can't do it anymore. [But] I not



LeNell Smothers is fleeing south of the border, leaving her Red Hook liquor store, with its famous statue. This map shows one possible route she'll take to get there.

out of Brooklyn when deal for new retail space collapsed last year.

"It was a space I had been negotiating for forever, but it fell through," she said.

Smothers is not the first person to leave the South of the Border when plans

at home ended.

Other luminaries include LSD-fueled writer Ken Kesey,

disgraced dueler and former

President Aaron Burr, and Soviet legend Leon Trotsky, whose revolutionary spirit ended at the business end of an irate B-52 and B-70.

She had no choice but to leave.

At home, Other luminaries include LSD-fueled writer Ken Kesey,

disgraced dueler and former

President Aaron Burr, and Soviet legend Leon Trotsky, whose revolutionary

spirit ended at the business end of an irate B-52 and B-70.

It was a thunderous victory for democracy," deadpanned DeBlasio's lawyer, Stanley Schlein.

The "victory" depended pre-determined from the outset.

After all, DeBlasio handily won roughly 117,000 more signatures than the 7,500 re-

quired for a spot in the Sept. 15 Democratic primary ballot against former public advocate Mark Green, civil

rights lawyer Norman Siegel and Queens Councilman Eric Adams.

Still, he had to argue before the board for his spot after officials knocked him off the ballot for the alleged discrepancy in the number of signatures that the campaign handed in.

DeBlasio's lawyers presented evidence that all 117,000 signatures were valid, but Board of Election staffers created the discrepancy by erroneously miscounting three of

the volumes.

The board should have known what the campaign whoppers numbers were on the spot.

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July 31, 2009

Editor of the Year

Another New 'Atlantic Yards'?



NOW WHAT? A Community Informational Meeting

**THURSDAY
AUG 6
7:30-9:00pm**

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS! How did we get here? What has changed? Will it all be parking lots? How long will this take? Where are the jobs? Where is the affordable housing? Where is the public benefit? **What can WE do?**

CAN'T MAKE THIS INFORMATIONAL MEETING? We encourage you to respond to the ESDC anyway and tell them exactly what you think about the latest plans for the "Atlantic Yards" project. **THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD!** Email your comments to atlantycards@empire.state.ny.us and email a copy to cbrooklynneighborhoods@hotmail.com

For more information, visit www.councilofbrooklynneighborhoods.org



It's about integrity

Marty says he must knock rival off the ballot to save democracy

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz's campaign says that it must kick the Beep's sole Democratic primary challenger off the ballot to ensure the "integrity" of the ballot.

On Monday three Markowitz allies filed objections against nominating signatures collected by political newcomer Eugene Myrick, who had been roundly trounced in last year's Seaside Summer Concert Series, and two other Brooklynites whose connection to Markowitz is unknown. Markowitz was formally filed by Debra Kesh-Garcia, who is the executive director of his wife's Seaside Summer Concert Series, and two other Brooklynites whose connection to Markowitz is unknown. Markowitz

said he would challenge the signatures if they were filed.

Markowitz's election lawyer, former state Sen. Marty Connor, said that Myrick's submissions were so sloppy that he would file a motion to protect the "integrity of the balloting process."

"In 38 years as an election lawyer,

Connor agreed that Myrick's

"clear attempt was to deceive."

"The first few sheets of a volume

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sheets will have signatures, but there

are hundreds of blank pages in be-

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people will look at the first few

and the last few and think, 'Wow,

they have a lot of signatures.'

Late on Wednesday, more than a day after Connor alleged fraud, Myrick filed a brief with the Board of Elections insisting that he had obtained in excess of the 4,000 signatures required to remain on the ob-

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Biv whacker! Longshot rages against 'machine'

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The organizers of Tuesday's 35th Ward Council candidate debate at the Williamsburg forum—a "Verbal Smackdown," but only one of the hopefuls took that name literally.

The Bivins' Heights resident Doug Biviano attended from running candidates Jo Anne

Simon, Evan Thies, and Steve Levin—who was not even at the debate, his fourth such absence since becoming a member of the "machine" who was complicit in the controversial 2005 meeting of Williamsburg and Greenpoint that has not resulted in promised parkland and affordable housing.

"They were there at the table with the city—they were

cutting deals," said Biviano, who went straight at his rivals from the first question for being "machine politicians" who were complicit in the controversial 2005 meeting of Williamsburg and Greenpoint that has not resulted in promised parkland and affordable housing.

"They were there at the table with the city—they were

Fifth Street. I'm going to lead, I'm going to do something different."

Biviano, a civil engineer, building supervisor, and Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Brownsville) Biviano demanded that Lopez step down from his role as head of the Kings County Democratic party.

Heights), while Levin remains chief of staff to Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams (D-Brownsville).

Thies—a Williamsburg resident and community activist campaigning heavily on environmental issues—proposed he calls "360-degree rezoning"—fired back.

"Doug, there are a lot of people in this room who worked hard for that rezoning," he responded. "It's disgraceful, you would say that?"

Biviano did not back down. "What's disgraceful

is the empty buildings—and you were the architect!" he said, taunting Thies for stepping up to the podium before the Community Board 1 before the controversial vote on the residential rezoning of the Brooklyn Triangle in Williamsburg, which has the backing of Levin and the Lopez machine.

After the debate, Thies downplayed another allega-

tion, namely that he resigned from his volunteer position because he supported the rezoning of the Brooklyn Triangle. Lopez said that he was too busy with his campaign to fulfill his CBI duties.

"At the first two debates, he seemed like a nice, earnest guy. But he turned out to be a real political lifter."

Biviano also accused Simon of inaction during her tenure as a Democratic District Leader, adding that Simon wouldn't stand.

"Do you know what a dis-

trict leader does?" She works with her community,

responded Simon, a former

attorney. "I have not been working for an elected official or pull-

ing strings anymore."

Levin, who skipped the de-

bate in order to take part in an upstate labor conference, was in no mood to immediately shoot down Biviano's assertion that he was a "backroom coward."

Reached by phone, the Coun-

cilman said he had

more endorsements than Lebron James, told The Brooklyn Paper that he wouldn't de-into me—call me."

"We're trying to keep it pos-

tive," said Levin, who called the labor gathering "a very sig-

nificant policy meeting regard-

ing affordable housing and the

living wage."

Though they mostly stayed

out of the fracas, candidates

Isaac Abramson, Karen Berger,

and Karen Diamondstone each

outlined their plans for the

district.

Asham, a spokesman

and activist in South

Williamsburg's Hassidic com-

munity, suggested the city

devote an unoccupied De-

partment of Housing Pres-

ervation fund to quickly create more

units of affordable housing,

and urged the city to

not bail out stalled

development projects.

Bair, a longtime envi-

ronmentalist, proposed downzo-

ning parts of the Williamsburg and Greenpoint waterfront that were upzoned just four years ago and add-

ing more cars to the G train to combat flooding.

Diamondstone, a longtim-

er political activist, urged the

city to tear down

old buildings and turn them into afforda-

ble housing, and promised to reform the Council.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

Beep: Ballot challenge is all about 'integrity'

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz's campaign says that it must kick the Beep's sole Democratic primary challenger off the ballot to ensure the "integrity" of the ballooning process.

On Monday, three Markowitz allies filed objections against numerous signatures collected by political newcomer Eugene Myrick, who handed in roughly 6,000 signatures more than the 4,000 required to secure a spot on the Sept. 15 primary ballot.

Markowitz's election lawyer, former Sen. Marty Connor, said that Myrick's submissions were so sloppy that his campaign had to object only to protect the integrity of the ballooning process.

"In 38 years as an election lawyer, I've never seen anything like this," said Connor. "He has 477 sheets [of signatures] in 20 volumes—but only 1,201 sheets had any signatures on them at all. He filed pages and pages of blank sheets."

The challenge to Myrick's candidacy was formally filed by Debra Kresh-Garcia, who is the executive director of the South Side-Summer Concert Series, and two other Brooklynites whose connection to Markowitz is unknown.

Markowitz is listed on the objection as a "candidate against Connor" because Myrick's "clear attempt was to deceive."

"The first few sheets of a volume may have signatures, but the last few sheets will have signatures, but there are hundreds of blank pages in between," Connor said. "He's hoping someone will come along and say, 'Oh, boy, they have a lot of signatures.'

Late on Wednesday, more than a day after Connor alleged fraud, Myrick finally issued a statement. "I am confident that I have obtained in excess of the 4,000 signatures required to remain on the ballot," he said.

Connor was the far more critical of Markowitz.

"Why not let the democratic process play itself out with campaigning, debating, and allowing the people to vote?" he asked. "What are they afraid of?"

They're afraid, Connor added, of allowing someone on the ballot to do what he did.

Connor agreed with Myrick's "clear attempt was to deceive."

"Myrick's signatures are invalid because the signer either does not live in Brooklyn or is not a registered voter."

"It's not like there are only a few mistakes in his filing—it's almost entirely garbage," Connor said.

"It's about the integrity of the process."

Not everyone sees it so clearly.

After the Brooklyn paper reported



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THE Stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

PARK SLOPE

Developer faces critics

Carroll Street protest draws unexpected guest

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

An anti-growth developer sought his critics and faced down a crowd of protesters in Park Slope on Monday night, taking questions from those that the city rejected the builder's request to exceed the density limits at the Carroll Street site.

Black House Development

argued that the project

was a "Con Edison substi-

tute" and deserved extra

allowances because of a power plant.

"We had no idea there

was a Con Edison substi-

tute in the building," he said.

In the first told several

dozen protesters who were

rallying at the construction

site, which is between Fourth

and Fifth Avenues.

Vernon and his partner,

both admittedly inexperi-

enced in New York real es-

tate — added that they want

to "cooperate with the com-

munity."

Partner Sean Ludwick.

But the protesters repre-

sented the neighborhood

and design of the original

plans — which were created

by architect Enrique

Tarazona — and

told the Board of Standards

and Appeals to deny

Black House's application for

a variance to the zoning rules.

The hearing was scheduled

for today and is expected

next month.

Norton's first design called

for a large garden-area in

front of the two-story

building. Now, the de-

velopers want to fill in the

area with the additional town-

houses, four stories tall.

"That's not a good enough

reason for us to suffer in per-

petuity," said Mike Tessier,

an opponent who lives on Carroll

Street, who was not swayed by the developer's claims of fairness.

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AWP 5



POST OFFICE MORTEM

Budget cuts could stamp out your PO

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Money-saving measures might lead to the closure of neighborhood post offices.

The United States Postal Service is considering closing postal stations and branches around the country in hopes of trimming a debt that is already in the billions — potentially leaving the borough's small mail enthusiasts further from their nearest post offices.

"The postal service is reviewing more than 3,000 stations and branches nationwide," said postal spokesman Barbara Reit. "With the state of the business now, everything is on the table."

Not only would the Post Office serviceable financial but the very nature of its business has changed due to the newfangled invention called the e-mail, which has revolutionized the way we communicate the way the telephone did the way the telegraph did the Pony Express.

The agency insists it hasn't made up its final decision about which stations and branches it will close, but will close, but insiders from the American Postal Workers Union claim that there are 100 or so "satellite" stations — which are just like regular post offices except that they don't have mail carriers — under particular scrutiny for closure in Brooklyn.

"The Postal Service is trying to get out of the retail business altogether," said Jim Van Doren, president of the American Postal Workers Union's Brooklyn local. "There are only three or four clerks at each satellite to each retail station. There are no letter carriers working out of these stations. They are strictly selling stamps, postal money order, so they think it would be easier to close them."

None of the changes would go into effect until the fall — and not without substantial public warning, postal officials said.

Here's how the postal cuts could end up slicing the budget:



PARK SLOPE: To save cash in the 11215 ZIP code, which has two satellite stations, the Postal Service is considering eliminating either the retail location on Seventh Avenue near Second Street or its counterpart on Prospect Park West near 17th Street and Myrtle Avenue. Closing either one would leave the area with only one remaining bus stop.

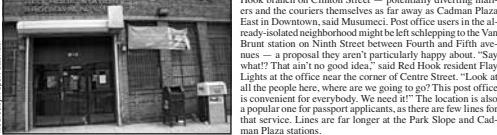
Clearly, customers aren't happy. "It would be a pain in the neck," said Seventh Avenue mailer Margaret Hagen.

"The lines at Ninth Street are already very difficult. There is limited space there, too. The little post offices take

precedence off of the big post offices." Others complained of extremely poor service at the Ninth Street location.

BAY RIDGE/DYKER HEIGHTS: Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights may face one more station closing and one branch consolidation. The agency is considering consolidating the Dyker Heights branch near the corner of 13th Avenue and 83rd Street into the Fort Hamilton Branch on Fifth Avenue, which is currently the sole post office in the neighborhood, Manhattan notes. "It's gonna be really inconvenient," said resident Kevin Thornton as he strolled down 13th Avenue. "I can do everything here, but for one thing I'm gonna have to go to Bay Ridge." On the notion side of things, Thornton is not alone. Residents are also pushing down the Ovington station on Fourth Avenue near 68th Street — a proposal that has already riled State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge). "Bay Ridge can be adequately served by one post office," he said in a statement.

RED HOOK: The Postal Service is considering closing the Red Hook branch on Clinton Street — potentially diverting mailers and the couriers themselves as far away as Cadman Plaza East in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Post offices in the area already consolidate night mail and might be forced to ship to the Van Brunt station on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues — a proposal they aren't particularly happy about. "Say what?" That's not a good idea," said Red Hook resident Play Wright, who often uses the post office on Centre Street. "Look at all the people here, where are we going? This post office is convenient for everybody. We need it!" The location is also a popular one for passport applicants, as there are few lines for that service. Lines are far longer at the Park Slope and Cadman Plaza stations.



Clash of the fightin's!

A week of out-of-control meetings over stalled Atlantic Yards

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

They've said it before — and they said it again.

Supporters and opponents of the embattled Atlantic Yards project clashed at a hearing, demanding the project be halted in the wake of changes approved last month that would allow Forest City to build the project at a slower pace, pay the Metropolitan Transportation Authority less rent up front for development rights to a portion of the railyards at the intersection of Franklin and Flatbush avenues, and to make less-costly rail yard rents.

But that doesn't mean it wasn't without excitement.

More than 50 project opponents as well as a who's who of political and Council candidates rallied outside the hearing, demanding the project be halted in the wake of changes approved last month that would allow Forest City to build the project at a slower pace, pay the Metropolitan Transportation Authority less rent up front for development rights to a portion of the railyards at the intersection of Franklin and Flatbush avenues, and to make less-costly rail yard rents.

The end is near. It's time to put the proposed Atlantic Yards development out of its misery," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene).

Meanwhile, about a dozen supporters of the project later gathered at the hearing by a larger block of Atlantic Yards residents and held up signs and chanted: "You can't stop the progress."

Inside the hearing, Daniel Goldstein, who is not only the spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, but a homeowner in the footprint



Sarah Wenk (left) and Gilly Youner turned their backs on Borough President Markowitz during Wednesday's hearing.

of the proposed Nets basketball arena, was the center of attention.

The outspoken project opponent replaced maps of the project site with his own posters replaced maps of the project site with his own posters.

"It's a farce. It's a sham process for a sham

project," said Goldstein, whose comments were met with cheers and applause.

When asked if the project accused "a small group of people" of delaying a public benefit for a larger factor of supporters, Goldstein interrupted, shouting, "We're not a small group of people! We're a large group of people with us!"

After the outburst, police escorted Goldstein out of the auditorium, though he permitted him to return moments later.

When asked if the project was a "joke," Rattner responded, "It's not a joke. It's a serious project."

The \$4-billion mega-project has been stalled by the downturn in the economy as well as Rattner's inability to find a developer for the project's signature skyscraper the so-called "Mars Brooklyn" tower. Opponents say that the changes to the General Project Plan approved last month require another round of public review. Critics say that the project should not be allowed to proceed because that would allow the public to see what Rattner envisions now that star architect Frank Gehry, the developer whose inclusion in the project was one of its initial selling points, is no longer involved.

His firm, Gehry Partners, was purchased by Ellerbe Becket, whose initial designs have shown a generic basketball arena that looks like an airport hanger.

Supporters say the project is progressing, when completed by 2012, will create jobs and economic development. But the modified general project plan now only calls for Rattner to build the arena and up to four buildings around it. Land for the so-called Phase II is not currently being acquired.

It was a tale of two Yards

Both sides of the Atlantic Yards saga — mostly construction workers in favor and neighbors of the project footprint in opposition — were out in force at Wednesday's hearing in Downtown. Here's what our sharp-eyed reporter heard.



"I'm here to fight for good jobs. We've been bombing in New York. It's tough to build a plant. We don't see many opportunities. We've been fighting to develop spending money to destroy stuff, so anything built in America is a good thing." Frank Basile, Queens



"Jobs are needed in New York. It's tough to build a plant. We don't see many opportunities. We've been fighting to develop spending money to destroy stuff, so anything built in America is a good thing." Joe Gelio, Staten Island



"It's very important to provide opportunities for people to better their lives. The plan is providing housing, job opportunities. It's also about our future. What can we provide our children?" Anthony Williamson, Downtown

"Rattner definitely shouldn't get any tax breaks — that's our money. They've planned out an affordable housing. It's not right. I'm putting that money back into the community." Beverly Corbin, Wyckoff Gardens

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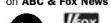
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FRIDAY

July 31

**Deer men**

A week of unbelievable films begins tonight with "The Deer Hunter." Michael Cimino's flawless classic about a bunch of backwoodsmen who go to Vietnam and return to a different world. It not only features a great Russian voiceover but a great job by De Niro, but also Christopher Walken and the late and great John Cazale (pictured).

3 pm and 7 pm. "The Deer Hunter" [BAM] 30 Lafayette Ave., between Adelphi and Hoyt Streets, Fort Greene, Brooklyn, 718-632-4100. Tickets \$11. For info, visit www.bam.org

SATURDAY

August 1

**A favor for you**

You're making an offer you can't refuse. Before there was "The Sopranos," there was "The Godfather," the greatest Mob movie ever. The original screens tonight, and the equally bonkers "Good Will" will be shown tomorrow. Both feature John Cazale as Fredo Corleone, who really did break all our hearts to spilled beans to Hyman Roth.

3 pm and 7 pm. "The Godfather" [BAM] 30 Lafayette Ave., between Adelphi and Hoyt Streets, Fort Greene, Brooklyn, 718-632-4100. Tickets \$11. For info, visit www.bam.org



July 31, 2009

The Brooklyn Paper • www.BrooklynPaper.com • (718) 260-2500

AWP 9



'Lear' is king

Gallery Players version of the Bard's bloody classic is one raucous rumble

The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension
By Andrew McLaughlin

The Tragedy of King Lear" by the Gallery Players is insanely good.

The decorated Park Slope troupe pens its heart out on stage, spending most of the timeline of the king and his conniving court, winging wonderful performances from the cast in the ultimate play about the breakdown of family.

Yes, the Players are the latest theater company to catch a case of summertime Shakespeare fever, and — oh, doctor! — theater fans should pay a house call to the 14th Street playhouse for this limited run, through Aug. 2.

Dominic Cusker portrayed Lear,



Royal request: King Lear (Dominic Cusker) is amused by his Fool (Andrew Firda) in the Gallery Players' version of "King Lear," running through Aug. 2.

Dominic Cusker portrayed Lear,

topped in mirth, with appropriate levels of mama, chastised entitlement and regret. John Blaylock as Kent and Elliott Mayer as Gloucester, are worth their weight in gold.

King Lear (Dominic Cusker)

Fool (Andrew Firda)

Gloucester (Elliott Mayer)

Kent (John Blaylock)

Rehearsal (Elliott Mayer)

Rehearsal (John Blaylock)

Rehearsal (Elliott Mayer)



July 31, 2009

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AWP 11
The Brooklyn Paper
Editor of the Year

Ringling round the rosy

Cole Brothers trots out its circus to compete with Boom-a-ring

By Jared Fortek
for The Brooklyn Paper

Cole Brothers bills its new production as "Circus of the Stars," but this better-than-average carnival evade only reached the moon.

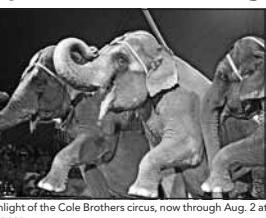
Yes, some acts garnered wonder and amazement, but many thought they were just OK.

The show's first act — that old motorcycle "Globe of Death" routine — was undoubtedly one of the best, as reaching a cycle at night, around the inner ring, at high speeds was exciting enough, but then two more riders entered the cage and took off.

Audience members — of all ages — were justifiably awestruck.

"Circus of the Stars" could't ride the roller coaster. The dare-devil drivers were followed by some sumo-wrestling clowns, whose slapstick comedy was a drag that had me wishing I was home.

The show's animals, though, were a blast. I never knew dogs jumping through hoops and over hurdles could be so entertaining



WIRE ROOM: Colombia's Toprasta Troupe (above) are the highlight of the Cole Brothers circus, now through Aug. 2 at Aviator Sports. Elephants (right) and Svetlana (far left) also appear.

(perhaps I don't ride roller coasters). And despite my well-educated refined taste in comedy, I also couldn't help but chuckle at the sight of one of the pups riding a pony around the rings.

Most notably, the clowns got some hearty laughs from the children and parents alike as they stood and sat on stools, piggybacked on one another and rolled over on command.

(Perhaps I don't get out enough — or camp out enough.)

But not all the animals were great. Synchro-nized canines? That was so boring that wouldn't even wind up on the unedited DVD of the Ringling Brothers' superstars (and cheaper!) one-ring show.

Some of the humans picked up the slack, though.

The seven-man tightrope-walking pyramid was incred-

ible, and the gyroscopic "Wheel

of Destiny" was one of the coolest things I've seen in a long time.

But the rest of the Homo sapiens were absolutely Neanderthals of entertainment. Juggling, bowling pins? I've seen better on YouTube. And the set was stinkin' torches. Or something.

And where was the trapeze act?

Can a spectacle even call itself a circus without high-flying action?

But I must be a kid at heart be-

cause when I left the Aviator sports complex, I had a smile on my face, happy in the knowledge that one of the world's oldest forms of family entertainment could still impress in an age of big-screen TV's, virtual reality games and set

"Cole Bros. Circus of the Stars" at Aviator Sports (3400 Flatbush Ave., between Avenue U and the Belt Parkway, (800) 796-5672) through Aug. 2. Tickets, \$12-\$17.

The Brooklyn Paper
KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

OSFO is no mere camp follower

When the Oh So Feisty One told Smartmom she didn't want to go to sleepaway camp this summer, Smartmom wasn't all that surprised.

OSFO easily entailed two sleepaway summers — and lived to tell the tale. The first camp was, Smartmom now admits, a tad too rustic. It was the kind of place that one might have liked as a girl, so she thought it would be a life-changing experience for OSFO.

Transformational.

It was an all-girls camp in Vermont with wilderness activities, but the basic teatoo (no windows, no doors). Suffice it to say, they told parents to pack mosquito netting.

Smartmom easily entailed OSFO's first summer — and lived to tell the tale. The first camp was, Smartmom now admits, a tad too rustic. It was the kind of place that one might have liked as a girl, so she thought it would be a life-changing experience for OSFO.

Transformational.



By Louise Crawford

From her first day, she raved. She stressed, she worried, if she had been selected by a panel of monitors.

When OSFO got off the bus in Bennington after two rainy, mildewy weeks, Smartmom could tell that her experience was less than stellar.

"We'll talk about it later," OSFO's director said as they got into their service van to take them back to Brooklyn.

In the days that followed, Smartmom heard stories and more about this special camp. According to OSFO, the food was "delicious."

OSFO's director said — and she did — that there was a real lack of Quaker meeting that gets Smartmom and other parents so excited.

Or maybe just forgot how much fun she has last year. Twelve months is a long time.

Whatever the reason, Smartmom wasn't going to force her little baby to go anywhere she didn't want to go.

Exhibit A: one huge problem. Smartmom was probably the most unreasonably nice and reasonable person I have ever met.

Smartmom is a feminist, but she wasn't crazy about her.

bunkmates and the girl she met at camp. Colleen Hiltz was unbearably homely, homesick and that can be contagious.

There was also that bear-sighting that scared OSFO off her mind.

All in all, it was not OSFO's first choice — and she was not returning the next summer.

The next year, a friend suggested she contact Smartmom to see if she wanted to go back? Smartmom is really sure. A good camp friend couldn't go the same week as OSFO, so she had to wait for another on the calendar.

The Park Slope baby who she went to camp with last year chose a different camp this year. Maybe that was why her experience was less than stellar.

"We'll talk about it later," OSFO's director said as they got into their service van to take them back to Brooklyn.

In the days that followed, Smartmom heard stories and more about this special camp. According to OSFO, the food was "delicious."

OSFO's director said — and she did — that there was a real lack of Quaker meeting that gets Smartmom and other parents so excited.

Or maybe just forgot how much fun she has last year. Twelve months is a long time.

Whatever the reason, Smartmom wasn't going to force her little baby to go anywhere she didn't want to go.

No, no, no. Exhibit B: one huge problem. Smartmom was probably the most unreasonably nice and reasonable person I have ever met.

Smartmom is a feminist, but she wasn't crazy about her.

Most important, the girls in OSFO's bunk and at camp were an endless shambles party complete with spider shadows, shadow puppets and sharing some boy's box of Cap'n Crunch cereal.

Or maybe just forgot how much fun she has last year. Twelve months is a long time.

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July 31, 2009



Zeke: Cyclones Freak

By Zeke Faux

Lefty hunter

Sage, a deerslayer back home, is killing lefties

He can jam a left-handed batter with a slider, freeze a lefty with a curve — and take down a deer at 100 yards with a bow and arrow.

Met's Hernandez, the only specialist in the Cy-

clones bullpen and the deadliest deerstalker this side of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Hunterman, in. Brandon Sage, if you insist — is hitting lefties to a .371 average and has a 0.64 ERA, second on the Clones.

Clearly, the Mets got something right when they drafted the 22-year-old in the 37th round, despite his 4.64 ERA for the University of South Alabama. The 6-foot-4, 210-pound Sage, however, quickly earned the trust of manager Pedro Lopez with his aggressive approach on the mound and the affection of his teammates. "Bam!" he says.

"Hunterman's just got that country swagger," said catcher Ralph Henriquez, who bats .300 for the Clones. "They don't make them like that where I'm from — he's probably short like 40 deer."

Sage prefers to focus on Sage's other firepower.

"His secondary pitches are so good, he's enough of a catch to be a skipper."

"He's everything that he was — and more."

Sage didn't know what to expect when he got the call from the Mets. Growing up and going to college in New York, he had to drive to the woods in minutes in his jacketed Bronx blazer his favorite country singer, Hank Williams Jr.

"I knew it was going to be different," said Sage.

And...

"There are a lot more buildings."

So he's a man of words. Good thing it's been to Mobile so I could bring up a few other differences: Tallish hipsters vs. tan-and-ex-cheerleaders? No comparison. He's a mafioso. No subtlety with giant names? "The subversive is a treat," said Keyspan Park vs. Hank Aaron Stadium — the Mobile BayBears' park where luxury boxes take up the entire field level? (He likes Keyspan Park.) I missed?

"They don't play country music at the Buffalo Wild Wings here," he said, referring to the national chain in the Atlantic Center Mall, a popular Cyclones hangout.

Sage's college coach was pleased to hear that his former star was making himself at home.

"Being a southern boy, he's probably not used to the 'Big Apple' in Brooklyn, but it's a fine place man. I'm sure he'll get it," said Steve Kitterell, who wasn't surprised that Sage was adjusting to pro lefties, either.

"He's got a knack for getting lefties out, because they have to expand their arms to hit and he can locate the fastball pretty good, too."

The lefty killer himself didn't have much to say about his pitching technique. "I show him how to take down a deer with one shot."

The secret? "I hold the ball behind my shoulder blade. The arrow goes right through his lung and the deer just drops," Sage explained.

It's the same technique for freezing lefties with a breaking ball, he added.

"Not really," said Sage.

The ballplayer had baffled the beat writer. Guess it goes to show that — to quote Hank Jr. — a country boy can survive, even in Brooklyn.

Zeke Faux is a sports columnist for The Brooklyn Paper. His last name is pronounced "Fox."

The Faux Hole

With the baseball season in full swing, the Yankees' Neil McMillan for the home lead, nine to six. All of Servizio's homers have come at Keyspan Park.... The Cyclones were offering free season tickets for life to anyone who gave birth or promised to name their kid "C" or "Brooklyn.".... Sunday's Bellino and Sebastiani, the two No-nos did.... Manager Darryl Strawberry Night and Medieval Times Night at Keyspan Park. The first 2,500 fans will get a Strawberry basket.... The Cyclones will be offering free admission to participants in the jousts but you never know.... Of course, Cyclones with the most at-bats, four had bunting averages below .200, the dreaded "Mendoza Line," through Tuesday. Luis Nieves has the lowest at .138.... Reliever Lance Higgs has been called up to the Yankees on July 26.... Outfielder Nick Santoro is hitting .400 with three homers over his last five games.... The Cyclones' 979 fielding percentage led the New York-Penn League.... The Cyclones' 10th annual Medieval Times led the league in saves with seven through Tuesday.... Luis Rivera unsuccessfully attempted to break his bat over his knee after striking out to end the sixth on Tuesday. Later, Nieves successfully dashed his batting helmet into pieces after getting thrown out.

That's amore!

Cyclones just loved their blue Italian night uniforms

By Andy Hoffman

for The Brooklyn Paper

Now that's Italian!

The Brooklyn Cyclones came to the Italian Heritage Night, Monday night, donning Italian soccer-style uniforms for the annual Italian Heritage Night at Keyspan Park.

In addition to the usual ethnic-themed fun — including Italian music from group Tiey Bella, a stirring rendition of the Italian national anthem, "T'Gel Di Gheglia," and a first pitch thrown out by local boy made good, boxer Paulie Malignaggi — the Cyclones looked particularly in the Azurri-hued "Ciclon" uniforms, designed by Kevin Jimenez.

"I think the jerseys from the Italian soccer team," said Jimenez, who has tweaked Cyclone home uniforms for other special events nights such as Jewish Heritage Night. "The uniform numbers on the top left as opposed to the team logo because that's how it is," Kevin Jimenez.

"I think the jerseys from the Italian soccer team," said Jimenez, who has tweaked Cyclone home uniforms for other spe-



EYE of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage



Rightfielder Luis Rivera gunned down an Ironbark trying to score on a single in the 13th inning, saving the game — which the Cyclones then won in the 14th!

Feeding the defense

Pitcher owes his teammates big time

By Zeke Faux

for The Brooklyn Paper

Hey Cyclones, your next team dinner is in Milwaukee.

The receiver was saved by

spectacular defense twice this week.

When he served up a

deep drive on Sunday, Just

Garber had to make a

leap to catch it and

smashed over Garber's

head and to his left.

"I thought I was going to

catch it on the ball, I

wasn't able to catch it,

it went right to Garber,

whose extension

shocked him

into dropping the tag,

keeping the game tied.

"It was probably the best

catch I've ever made,"

said Pedro Lopez.

"It was a turning point in the game."

Garber's grab turned a posse

tripple into a sac fly, keeping

the Cyclones up by two in

the fifth inning of the even-

tual 10-10 win. But Rivera's

laser kept the L11 Amazin's

from falling behind in extra

innings.

With runners on first and

second and two outs in the

top of the 13th, Aberdeen's Levi

Carulos lined a single to right

field. Rivera charged the ball,

came up and on one hop

flew to center field, where

Henriquez, who blocked the

plate and made the tag, keep-

ing the game tied.

The Cyclones won the

game in the next frame.

"I knew I'd get him be-

cause when I got the ball, I

saw the runner at third base,"

said Rivera, whose favori-

te food is lasagna (madge,

madge).

"Lasagna! I could proba-

bly swing that," said Lynn.

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